



MURIEL GOODE-TRUFANT
Corporation Counsel

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
LAW DEPARTMENT
100 CHURCH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10007

Susan P. Scharfstein
Labor & Employment Law Division
212-356-2355
sscharfs@law.nyc.gov

July 28, 2025

Honorable Loretta A. Preska (*by ECF*)
United States District Judge
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Daruwala v. New York City Health & Hospitals Corp., et al., 23-cv-10231 (LAP)

Dear Judge Preska:

I am an attorney in the office of Muriel Goode-Trufant, Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, counsel for defendants New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation, Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center, and the four individual defendants who are represented by this office.

I write to request that the Court "So Order" the annexed Stipulation and Proposed Protective Order, which has been executed by counsel for the parties, so that the parties may exchange sensitive and confidential personnel and other similar information in discovery in this case.

Thank you for your time and attention to the above.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Susan P. Scharfstein

Susan P. Scharfstein

cc: All counsel (*by ECF*)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

----- x
ORPAH DARUWALA,

Plaintiff,

JOINT PROPOSED
STIPULATION AND
PROTECTIVE ORDER

- against -

NEW YORK CITY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS
CORPORATION, et al.,

23-cv-10231 (LAP)

Defendants.
----- x

LORETTA A. PRESKA, United States District Judge:

WHEREAS Plaintiff Orpah Daruwala and Defendants New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center, Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Tahir, Dr. Michael Malone, Dr. Jonna Mercado, Dr. Edward Fishkin, and Dr. Giovanna Rodriguez (collectively, the “Parties,” and individually, a “Party”) request that this Court issue a protective order pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) to protect the confidentiality of certain nonpublic and confidential material that will be exchanged pursuant to and during the course of discovery in this case;

WHEREAS, the Parties, through counsel, agree to the following terms;

WHEREAS, the Parties acknowledge that this Protective Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords only extends to the limited information or items that are entitled, under the applicable legal principles, to confidential treatment;

WHEREAS, the Parties further acknowledge that this Protective Order does not create entitlement to file confidential information under seal; and

WHEREAS, in light of these acknowledgements, and based on the representations of the Parties that discovery in this case will involve confidential documents or information the public disclosure of which will cause harm to the producing person and/or third party to whom a duty of confidentiality is owed, and to protect against injury caused by dissemination of confidential documents and information, this Court finds good cause for issuance of an appropriately tailored confidentiality order governing the pretrial phase of this action;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that any person subject to this Protective Order—including without limitation the parties to this action, their representatives, agents, experts and consultants, all third parties providing discovery in this action, and all other interested persons with actual or constructive notice of this Protective Order—shall adhere to the following terms:

1. Any person subject to this Protective Order who receives from any other person subject to this Protective Order any "Discovery Material" (i.e., information of any kind produced or disclosed pursuant to and in course of discovery in this action) that is designated as "Confidential" pursuant to the terms of this Protective Order (hereinafter "Confidential Discovery Material") shall not disclose such Confidential Discovery Material to anyone else except as expressly permitted hereunder.

2. The person producing any given Discovery Material may designate as Confidential only such portion of such material the public disclosure of which is either restricted by law or, in the good-faith judgment of the person producing the Discovery Material, will cause harm to the business, governmental, commercial, financial, private, or personal interests of the producing party and/or a third party to whom a duty of confidentiality is owed and that consists of:

(a) previously nondisclosed financial information (including without limitation profitability reports or estimates, percentage fees, design fees, royalty rates, minimum guarantee payments, sales reports, and sale margins);

(b) previously nondisclosed material relating to ownership or control of any non-public company;

(c) previously nondisclosed business plans, product development information, or marketing plans;

(d) any information of a personal or intimate nature regarding any individual, including, but not limited to, medical and psychiatric records; or

(e) personnel and payroll records; or

(f) information the public disclosure of which would harm proprietary or privacy interests of any party or its employees, clients, vendors, or stakeholder, or be detrimental to the conduct of any party's business or operations; or

(g) any other category of information hereinafter given confidential status by the Court.

3. With respect to the Confidential portion of any Discovery Material other than deposition transcripts and exhibits, the producing person or that person's counsel may designate such portion as "Confidential" by: (a) stamping or otherwise clearly marking as "Confidential" the protected portion in a manner that will not interfere with legibility or audibility; and (b) producing for future public use another copy of said Discovery Material with the confidential information redacted.

4. With respect to deposition transcripts, and any exhibits used in connection with this litigation, a producing person or that person's counsel may designate such portion as

Confidential either by (a) indicating on the record during the deposition that a question calls for Confidential information, in which case the reporter will bind the transcript of the designated testimony (consisting of question and answer) in a separate volume and mark it as "Confidential Information Governed by Protective Order"; or (b) notifying the reporter and all counsel of record, in writing, within 30 calendar days after receipt of the deposition transcript, of the specific pages and lines of the transcript and/or the specific exhibits that are to be designated Confidential, in which case all counsel receiving the transcript will be responsible for marking the copies of the designated transcript or exhibit (as the case may be), in their possession or under their control as directed by the producing person or that person's counsel by the reporter. During this 30-day period, the entire deposition transcript will be treated as if it had been designated Confidential.

5. If at any time prior to the trial of this action, a producing person realizes that some portion(s) of Discovery Material that she, he, or it had previously produced without limitation should be designated as Confidential, she, he, or it may so designate by so apprising all prior recipients of the Discovery Material in writing, and thereafter such designated portion(s) of the Discovery Material will thereafter be deemed to be and treated as Confidential under the terms of this Protective Order.

6. No person subject to this Protective Order other than the producing person shall disclose any of the Discovery Material designated by the producing person as Confidential to any other person whomsoever, except to:

(a) the Parties to this action, their insurers, and counsel to their insurers;

(b) counsel retained specifically for this action, including any paralegal, clerical and other assistant employed by such counsel and assigned to this matter;

(c) outside vendors or service providers (such as copy-service providers and document-management consultants, graphic production services or other litigation support services) that counsel hire and assign to this matter, including computer service personnel performing duties in relation to a computerized litigation system;

(d) any mediator or arbitrator that the Parties engage in this matter or that this Court appoints, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto;

(e) as to any document, its author, its addressee, and any other person indicated on the face of the document as having received a copy;

(f) any witness who counsel for a Party in good faith believes may be called to testify at trial or deposition in this action, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto;

~~(g) any person retained by a Party to serve as an expert witness or otherwise~~
provide specialized advice to counsel in connection with this action, provided such person has first executed a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto;

(h) stenographers engaged to transcribe depositions conducted in this action; and

(i) this Court, including any appellate court, and the court reporters and support personnel for the same.

7. Prior to any disclosure of any Confidential Discovery Material to any person referred to in subparagraphs 6(d), 6(f) or 6(g) above, such person shall be provided by counsel with a copy of this Protective Order and shall sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement in the form annexed as an Exhibit hereto stating that that person has read this Protective Order and agrees to be bound by its terms. Said counsel shall retain each signed Non-Disclosure Agreement, hold it in escrow, and produce it to opposing counsel either prior to such person being permitted to testify (at deposition or trial) or at the conclusion of the case, whichever comes first.

8. Any Party who objects to any designation of confidentiality may at any time prior to the trial of this action serve upon counsel for the designating person a written notice stating with particularity the grounds of the objection. If the Parties cannot reach agreement promptly, counsel for all Parties will address their dispute to this Court in accordance with Paragraph 2(A) of this Court's Individual Practices in Civil Cases.

9. Any Party who requests additional limits on disclosure (such as "attorneys' eyes only" in extraordinary circumstances) may at any time prior to the trial of this action serve upon counsel for the receiving Party a written notice stating with particularity the grounds for the request. If the Parties cannot reach agreement promptly, counsel for all Parties will address their dispute to this Court in accordance with Paragraph 2(A) of this Court's Individual Practices in Civil Cases.

10. Recipients of Confidential Discovery Material under this Protective Order may use such material solely for the prosecution and defense of this action and any appeals thereto, and specifically (and by way of example and not limitations) may not use Confidential Discovery Material for any business, commercial, or competitive purpose. Nothing contained in this Protective Order, however, will affect or restrict the rights of any person with respect to its own documents or information produced in this action. Nor does anything contained in this Protective Order limit or restrict the rights of any person to use or disclose information or material obtained independently from and not through or pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

11. Nothing in this Protective Order will prevent any person subject to it from producing any Confidential Discovery Material in its possession in response to a public records request, a lawful subpoena or other compulsory process, or if required to produce by law or by any government agency having jurisdiction, provided, however, that such person receiving a request, will provide written notice to the producing person before disclosure and as soon as reasonably possible, and, if permitted by the time allowed under the request, at least 10 days before any disclosure. Upon receiving such notice, the producing person will have the right to oppose compliance with the subpoena, other compulsory process, or other legal notice if the producing person deems it appropriate to do so.

12. All persons seeking to file documents under seal with the Court shall first seek leave to file such papers. All persons producing Confidential Discovery Material are deemed to be on notice that the Second Circuit puts limitations on the documents or information that may be filed in redacted form or under seal and that the Court retains discretion not to afford confidential treatment to any Confidential Discovery Material submitted to the Court or presented in connection with any motion, application or proceeding that may result in an order and/or decision by the Court unless it is able to make the specific findings required by law in order to retain the confidential nature of such material. Notwithstanding its designation, there is no presumption that Confidential Discovery Material will be filed with the Court under seal. The Parties will use their best efforts to minimize such sealing.

13. All persons are hereby placed on notice that the Court is unlikely to seal or otherwise afford confidential treatment to any Discovery Material introduced in evidence at trial or supporting or refuting any motion for summary judgment, even if such material has previously been sealed or designated as Confidential.

14. Any Party filing a motion or any other papers with the Court under seal shall also publicly file a redacted copy of the same, via the Court's Electronic Case Filing system, that redacts only the Confidential Discovery Material itself, and not text that in no material way reveals the Confidential Discovery Material.

15. Each person who has access to Discovery Material that has been designated as Confidential shall take all due precautions to prevent the unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure of such material and notify the producing party of any unauthorized disclosure of Confidential Discovery Material in writing within 5 business days of discovering the disclosure. Nothing herein limits any person's rights to seek all appropriate remedies for the unauthorized disclosure of Confidential information

16. Any Personally Identifying Information ("PII") (e.g., social security numbers, financial account numbers, passwords, and information that may be used for identity theft) exchanged in discovery shall be maintained by the persons who receive such information and are bound by this Protective Order in a manner that is secure and confidential. In the event that the person receiving PII experiences a data breach, she, he, or it shall immediately notify the producing person of the same and cooperate with the producing person to address and remedy the breach. Nothing herein shall preclude the producing person from asserting legal claims or constitute a waiver of legal rights or defenses in the event of litigation arising out of the receiving person's failure to appropriately protect PII from unauthorized disclosure.

17. If, in connection with this litigation, a party discloses information subject to a claim of attorney-client privilege or attorney-work product protection or other applicable privilege, whether inadvertently or otherwise, such disclosure shall not constitute or be deemed a waiver or forfeiture of any claim of privilege. This order shall be interpreted to provide the maximum protection afforded by Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d). Therefore, the provisions of Rule 502(b) do not apply.

18. Nothing herein limits a party's right to conduct a review of documents, ESI, or information (including metadata) for relevance, responsiveness or segregation of privileged or protected information before production.

19. The receiving party must return or destroy all copies of any documents subject to claims of privilege described in paragraph 17 within 5 business days of being notified of their disclosure and provide the producing party with written confirmation that the affected documents have been destroyed or returned.

20. The disclosing party retains the burden of establishing the privileged or protected nature of any disclosed information. Nothing herein limits the right of any party to request an *in camera* review of such documents.

21. This Protective Order shall survive the termination of the litigation. Within 60 days of the final disposition of this action, all Discovery Material designated as "Confidential," and all copies thereof, shall be promptly returned to the producing person or upon written notification of the producing person, destroyed. Counsel for the Parties may maintain complete copies in their files, including materials designated as confidential, as required by the licensing Bar in the jurisdiction in which they practice.

22. All persons subject to this Protective Order acknowledge that willful violation of this Protective Order could subject them to punishment for contempt of Court. This Court shall retain jurisdiction over all persons subject to this Protective Order to the extent necessary to enforce any obligations arising hereunder or to impose sanctions for any contempt thereof.

SO STIPULATED AND AGREED:

VALIANT LAW
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
2 Westchester Park Drive, Suite 205
White Plains, NY 10604
(914) 730-2422
dcf@valiantlaw.com
jjj@valiantlaw.com
rb@valiantlaw.com

By:


Daniel Folchetti
Joseph Jeziorkowski
Raymond Babaian

MURIEL GOODE-TRUFANT
Corporation Counsel of the
City of New York
ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANTS NEW YORK CITY
HEALTH AND HOSPITALS CORPORATION,
WOODHULL MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH
CENTER, MICHAEL MALONE, JONNA MERCADO,
EDWARD FISHKIN, AND GIOVANNA RODRIGUEZ
100 Church Street
New York, NY 10007
(212) 356-2355
sscharfs@law.nyc.gov

By:


Susan P. Scharfstein

LAW OFFICE OF ALEXIS G. PADILLA
*ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT MUHAMMAD
TAYYAB TAHIR*
378 Lewis Avenue, Suite 6
Brooklyn, NY 11233
(917) 238-2993
alexpadilla722@gmail.com

By: 
Alexis G. Padilla

Dated: New York, New York
July 28, 2025

SO ORDERED

July 29, 2025


LORETTA A. PRESKA
United States District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

----- X

ORPAH DARUWALA,

Plaintiff,

NON-DISCLOSURE
AGREEMENT

- against -

23-cv-10231 (LAP)

NEW YORK CITY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS
CORPORATION, et al.,

Defendants.

----- X

I, _____, acknowledge that I have read and understand the Protective Order in this action governing the non-disclosure of those portions of Discovery Material that have been designated as Confidential. I agree that I will not disclose such Confidential Discovery Material to anyone other than for purposes of this litigation and that at the conclusion of the litigation I will either return all discovery information to the party or attorney from whom I received it, or upon permission of the producing party, destroy such discovery information. By acknowledging these obligations under the Protective Order, I understand that I am submitting myself to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York for the purpose of any issue or dispute arising hereunder and that my willful violation of any term of the Protective Order could subject me to punishment for contempt of Court.

Dated: _____